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Letter dated 1 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has severed its diplomatic relations with the Taliban Government and that it has issued the following statement:

> The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did everything in its power to support the fraternal Afghan people during the heroic jihad for independence that gave Afghanistan a special place in the hearts of those who advocate the right of peoples everywhere to freedom and independence. God ultimately decreed victory, and independence was restored to Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia now finds it regrettable that the Taliban Government has made use of Afghanistan's distinctive position not for the development of ties of brotherhood, for building and reconstruction or for the promotion of the exalted ideals that Islam represents but to offer its territory as a centre to attract, train and deploy numbers of the deceived of all nationalities, and particularly nationals of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in order to engage in criminal acts that violate every law and creed. It also persists in its refusal to hand these criminals over to justice. Despite all that has been happening, the Taliban Government is still using its territory to shelter, arm and encourage these criminals so that they may engage in terrorist operations that intimidate peaceful and innocent citizens and spread alarm and destruction in the world. This has harmed Islam and has marred the reputation of Muslims in the world.
>
> The Taliban Government has paid no heed to any of the contacts or endeavours made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a view to convincing it to desist from harbouring criminals and terrorists, from training and inciting them and from offering its territory as a shelter and refuge for them. It has not responded to any of the efforts made in this regard, most recently the contacts established with it by His Excellency President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia therefore announces the severance of all its relations with the Taliban Government. In making this announcement, it affirms that it will continue to support the people of

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Afghanistan and to back all efforts to achieve security, stability and prosperity for the country.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 166.

(*Signed*) Fawzi Bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative